



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
690 PEARY STREET
NEWPORT, RI 02841-1522

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NAVSTA NEWPORT RI
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IN REPLY REFER TO

5090

Ser N8N/589

JUL 26 2007

Mr. Robert Vanderslice, PhD
State of Rhode Island
Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

Dear Dr. Vanderslice:

The Navy has received your letter, dated June 21, 2007, indicating that you have two concerns with the proposed cleanup plan for the site of the former Melville Water Tower.

With regards to your first concern, the Navy would like to clarify that the evaluation of chemical data, to determine the completion of this removal action, will be limited to lead in soil. As stated throughout the Action Memo and Work Plan, the removal action will continue until lead concentrations are confirmed to be less than the RI Department of Environmental Management's residential standard of 150 ppm (parts per million). For the other metals (i.e. cadmium, chromium, and arsenic) you identified, the Navy will add the analysis of these chemicals to the confirmation phase of the removal action. If the Navy finds that the levels are above background and are attributable to a site-related release, then additional actions will be discussed once the removal for lead soil is complete.

Regarding your second comment on the area adjacent to the road with high lead levels, the Navy believes that the lead associated with this location is not related to a release from the Water Tower site and is likely due to the proximity of the highway located nine feet away. This concern is supported by our findings that soil samples collected between the former Water Tower and the highway were not contaminated with lead above 150 ppm. If the lead identified at the area adjacent to the highway was truly from wind-deposited lead dust from the Water Tower, the Navy would have expected to see concentrations of lead at an

actionable level at all of the downwind locations that were sampled.

The Navy appreciates your comments on the soil removal project and looks forward to our continued partnership on this project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Cornelia Mueller at 401-841-7561.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.D. Dorocz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D.D." and the last name "Dorocz" clearly distinguishable.

D. D. Dorocz
Environmental Department Head
By direction of
the Commanding Officer

Electronic copy to:
NAVFAC MIDLANT (James Colter)
RIDEM (Paul Kulpa)
US EPA (Kymberlee Keckler)
TetraTech NUS, Inc. (Steve Parker)